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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000086

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/03/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [EU](#) [IT](#) [TX](#) [OSCE](#)

SUBJECT: OSCE: GOI ON IMPROVING U.S./EU COORDINATION;
TURKMENISTAN "MOSCOW MECHANISM"

REF: A) STATE 02778 B) OSCE CIO WORK PLAN

CLASSIFIED BY: POL MC TOM COUNTRYMAN. REASON: 1.5 (B)(D).

- [11.](#) (C) SUMMARY AND REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE. DURING A
CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSION ON TURKMENISTAN "MOSCOW MECHANISM" (SEE PARA 5),
MFA OSCE OFFICE DIRECTOR FABIO CRISTIANI STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE OF U.S./EU COORDINATION ON OSCE ISSUES, AND
OFFERED TO TAKE IT UPON HIMSELF TO HELP FIND "COMMON GROUND"
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU ON REF B CIO WORK PLAN AND ANY OTHER
ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE IN THE COMING YEAR. POST REQUESTS
DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON REF B DOCUMENT TO SHARE
WITH CRISTIANI. END SUMMARY.

[12.](#) (C) CRISTIANI SAID THAT OVERALL, THE GOI WAS PLEASED
WITH THE RESULTS OF THE DECEMBER OPORTO MINISTERIAL, DESPITE
DOWN-TO-THE-WIRE NEGOTIATIONS ON SOME OF THE STATEMENTS.
CRISTIANI WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EU WAS NOT
INVOLVED IN FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
ISSUES, ESPECIALLY ON RUSSIA'S ISTANBUL COMMITMENTS ON
GEORGIA AND MOLDOVA. THE EU WAS LITERALLY "BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS" WHEN THE U.S. AND RUSSIA WERE NEGOTIATING THE FINAL
DRAFTS. CRISTIANI PLACED THE BLAME FOR THIS SITUATION
SQUARELY IN THE EU'S COURT. THE EU HAD NOT AGREED ON STRONG
INITIAL OR FALLBACK POSITIONS. EU CAPITALS HAD BEEN
"PASSIVE" ON THESE ISSUES, HE LAMENTED, AND THE U.S. AND
RUSSIA WERE THEREFORE CORRECT IN MARGINALIZING THE EU WHEN IT
CAME TO CRUNCH TIME ON FINAL LANGUAGE.

[13.](#) (C) ITALY WILL BE EU COUNCIL PRESIDENT DURING THE NEXT
OSCE MINISTERIAL, AND CRISTIANI HAS TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO
MAKE SURE THAT THIS SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS DOES NOT REPEAT
ITSELF. TO THAT END, HE SAID, THE EU SHOULD COORDINATE OFTEN
AND EARLY WITH THE U.S. ON KEY ISSUES WITHIN THE OSCE. AS A
START, CRISTIANI ASKED FOR THE USG'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THE
TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF THE 2003 WORK SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY
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THE NETHERLANDS CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE, DISTRIBUTED TO OSCE
PARTICIPATING STATES ON JANUARY 6. THE EARLIER WE KNOW EACH
OTHER POINTS OF CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE, HE SAID, THE
EASIER IT WILL BE TO REACH COMMON POSITIONS. CRISTIANI WILL
TAKE IT UPON HIMSELF TO HELP FIND "COMMON GROUND" BETWEEN THE
U.S. AND EU ON THIS DOCUMENT AND ANY OTHER ISSUES THAT MAY
ARISE IN THE COMING YEAR.

[14.](#) (C) COMMENT: ONE OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE RECENT
IN-HOUSE REVIEW OF U.S./EU RELATIONS WAS THAT WE NEED TO
COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY IN EU CAPITALS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO
THE USG -- BEFORE DEBATE BEGINS IN BRUSSELS. CRISTIANI IS
OFFERING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO JUST THAT. AS A FORMER
MINISTER AT ITALY'S MISSION TO THE OSCE, AND CURRENT POINT
PERSON FOR OSCE-EU RELATIONS DURING THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY,
WE COULD NOT HAVE A BETTER ALLY IN OUR EFFORTS TO CRAFT
COMMON U.S.-EU POSITIONS ON OSCE ISSUES. END COMMENT.

TURKMENISTAN

[15.](#) (C) POLOFF DREW ON POINTS REF A TO EMPHASIZE USG CONCERNS
REGARDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKMENISTAN, AND TO REQUEST
GOI SUPPORT FOR INVOKING THE OSCE'S "MOSCOW MECHANISM" TO
DEPLOY A FACT FINDING MISSION OF EXPERTS. CRISTIANI SAID
THAT THE GOI SHARED OUR CONCERNS, AND AGREED THAT A DEMARCHE
TO THE GOT URGING COOPERATION WITH THE OSCE, AND A PUBLIC
STATEMENT ALONG THE SAME LINES, WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MOVE
THE THUS-FAR INTRANSIGENT REGIME IN ASHKABAT.

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[16.](#) (C) CRISTIANI FELT THAT DELIVERING THE DEMARCHE AND
RELEASING THE STATEMENT THROUGH THE EU, SPECIFICALLY THE EU
TROIKA, WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN A SERIES OF BILATERAL
APPROACHES AND INDIVIDUAL RELEASES. THE EU WAS ENERGIZED ON
THE MATTER, HE CONTINUED, AND THE GOI WOULD MAKE SURE IT WAS
RAISED DURING THE LUNCH FOR EU OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES ON
JANUARY 9 IN VIENNA, AND AT THE EU POLITICAL-SECURITY AND
COREPER MEETINGS JANUARY 14 AND 15 IN BRUSSELS. CRISTIANI
WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE GREEK PRESIDENCY WOULD AGREE TO A

STRONG TROIKA STATEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE APPROVED BY OTHER EU MEMBER STATES. HE SAID THE STATEMENT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GOT REACTION TO THE JANUARY 3 LETTER SIGNED BY THE GERMAN, U.S., FRENCH, UK, AND ROMANIAN AMBASSADORS TO TURKMENISTAN URGING GOT COOPERATION.
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